

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
(Case No. 97,008-W)

In re Application of: )  
COPELAND, et. al )  
Serial No.: Not yet assigned ) Group Art Unit: 1743  
Filed: August 16, 2001 ) Examiner: Not yet assigned  
For: Automated Biological )  
Reaction Apparatus )

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

J/A  
C.J.  
12/17/b

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

A marked up version of the amended portion of the specification, to show all the changes, is attached hereto on pages separate from the amendment in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(c)(1)(ii).

Please delete lines 3-5 at page 1 and insert the following therefor:

~~This is a continuation of application Serial No. 09/452,309, filed on December 1, 1999, U.S. PAT NO. 6,352,861, which is a continuation of application Serial No. 08/906,678, filed August 5, 1997, abandoned, which is a continuation of application Serial No. 08/479,415, filed June 6, 1995, U.S. Patent No. 5,654,200, which is a division of application Serial No. 08/352,966, filed December 9, 1994, U.S. Patent No. 5,595,707, which is a continuation of application Serial No. 07/924,052, filed August 31, 1992, abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 07/488,601, filed March 2, 1990, abandoned.~~

At page 41, lines 3-8, please amend the text as follows:

station taken along the line A-A in Fig. 11, showing details of rinse liquid flow on a slide.

Fig. 13 is a top schematic view of the rinse stations showing details of the rinse liquid distribution on slides 5 being treated therein.

Fig. 14 is an isometric view of the slide treatment bar code reading, rinse, reagent receiving and vortex mixing stations.

Fig. 15 is a schematic, fragmentary cross-sectional view of the evaporation inhibiting liquid and reagent receiving station, taken along the line B-B in Fig. 11.

Fig. 16 is a cross-sectional view of the vortex mixing assembly, taken along the line C-C in Fig. 11.

Fig. 17 is a top schematic view of the vortex mixing zone, showing details of the vortex mixing action.

*5/17/06*  
Figs. 18<sup>A-C are</sup> is a schematic representational cross-sectional view of a slide following the rinse liquid, evaporation inhibitor and reagent application steps.

Figs. 19A-19B are cross-sectional views of respective alternative embodiments of a rinse liquid container and associated heating components.

Fig. 20A is a bottom, isometric view of one embodiment of a reagent container support tray.

Figs. 20B-20C are side sectional views of a further embodiment of the reagent container support tray.

Fig. 21 is a fragmentary cross-sectional view taken